Lat 40.20838 Lon -121.18426

United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Lassen National Forest | 2550 Riverside Dr. Susanville, CA 96130 (530) 257-2151 Voice (530) 257-6244 TTY (530) 252-6428 Fax

File Code: 3420 **Date:** March 11, 2003

Subject: Removal of Black stain root disease LOP for Unit 32D, Prattville Forest Restoration DFPZ Timber Sale (FHP Evaluation NE03-03

To: District Ranger, Almanor Ranger District, Lassen National Forest

At the request of Joe Waddell, sale administrator, I evaluated Unit 32D in the Prattville Forest Restoration DFPZ Timber Sale on March 10, 2003. With Joe and myself were Brenda Barton, harvest inspector, and Lauren Payne, culturist. The purpose of this evaluation was to determine whether or not the limited operating period (LOP), as set forth in the Timber Sale Contract and the Environmental Assessment, is necessary to minimize black stain root disease in Unit 32D. We inspected four other units in the same timber sale that were thinned during the LOP using the same equipment that will be used to thin Unit 32D (Timco harvester and rubber tired skidders). I determined that Unit 32D may be harvested outside the LOP when the soil dries to where the soil is disturbed no more than in the other units we visited. The other units were harvested in Fall 2001, Summer 2002, Fall 2002 and Winter 2003. The intent of my original recommendation to harvest in late summer, fall or winter was to prevent excessive soil disturbance and root damage which has been correlated to high incidences of black stain root disease in other pine stands in NE California. In this case, the LOP is unnecessary since the Timco harvester and rubber tired skidders are disturbing the soil very little. I will monitor Unit 32D after harvest to see if the amount of post-harvest black stain mortality is different than the amount occurring in other units in this sale. This information may be valuable for timing future black stain root disease treatments.

I encouraged Joe and Brenda to continue removing designated "leave" trees that begin to fade due to black stain root disease during harvest operations in this project. Latent infections or new infections that occur prior to harvest could not be identified at the time the trees were marked. Removing these diseased trees (new black stain faders) at the time of harvest should further enhance control efforts for this disease. In addition, I support Joe's suggestion to fall and leave any fading black stain-infected tree after the timber sale closes in an effort to prevent the spread of the disease to adjacent trees, providing this meets with the management objectives of the area. Since black stain root disease requires living roots, falling a fading green tree may hasten the death of roots, and stop the disease before it moves to healthy roots on neighboring trees. To my knowledge, this practice has not been attempted in the past. I would like to monitor the success of this activity, should it be undertaken.

For monitoring purposes, please send me a map showing all the units in this sale and the month(s) each unit was harvested. If you need any more help, please contact me.

Bill Woodruff

WILLIAM C. WOODRUFF
Plant Pathologist, R5 FHP, NE California Service Area